

PATENT APPLICATION

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for providing application software for a
2 peripheral device to be installed in a computer system,
3 comprising the steps of:

4 rendering said application software into a memory
5 module coupled to said peripheral device;

6 upon coupling said peripheral device to said
7 computer system by a user, querying said peripheral device
8 by an operating system executing on said computer system; and

9 responsive to said querying step, uploading said
10 application software into said computer system from said
11 memory module coupled to said peripheral device.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 rendering said application software into a memory module
3 comprises the step of programming a flash read-only memory
4 (ROM) module with said application software.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said application
2 software comprises at least one of customer usage application
3 software, customer support diagnostic application software,
4 driver software and at least one default setting with respect
5 to said peripheral device.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 rendering said application software into a memory module
3 comprises the step of programming a nonvolatile memory (NVM)
4 module with said application software.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 rendering said application software into a memory module
3 comprises the step of programming an electrically
4 programmable read-only memory (EPROM) module with said
5 application software.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 rendering said application software into a memory module
3 comprises the step of programming an electrically erasable
4 programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) module with said
5 application software.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 rendering said application software into a memory module
3 comprises the step of programming a nonvolatile random access
4 memory (NVRAM) module with said application software.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device comprises the step of making
3 a determination by said operating system whether said
4 application software is compatible with said operating
5 system.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device comprises the step of making
3 a determination by said operating system whether said
4 application software is compatible with said computer system.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with Microsoft® Windows® operating
4 system.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with a UNIX-based operating system.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with Linux® operating system.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with Macintosh® MacOS® operating
4 system.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with Solaris® operating system.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with AIX® operating system.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 querying said peripheral device by an operating system is
3 performed in association with HP-UX® operating system.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said peripheral
2 device is selected from the group consisting of: a printer,
3 a digital camera and a scanner.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 18. A system for providing application software for a
2 peripheral device to be installed in a computer system,
3 comprising:

4 a memory module associated with said peripheral
5 device, said memory module including said application
6 software;

7 means associated with said computer system for
8 querying said peripheral device when said peripheral device
9 is operably coupled to said computer system; and

10 means in said peripheral device operable to upload
11 said application software into said computer system from said
12 memory module based on control signals provided to said
13 peripheral device from said computer system.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein said memory module
2 comprises one of a flash ROM module, an EPROM module, an
3 EEPROM module and an NVRAM module.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein said application
2 software comprises at least one of customer usage application
3 software, customer support diagnostic application software,
4 driver software and at least one default setting with respect
5 to said peripheral device.

6 21. The system of claim 18, wherein said peripheral
7 device is selected from the group consisting of: a printer,
8 a digital camera and a scanner.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 22. A computer-readable medium operable in association
2 with a computer system to which a peripheral device is to be
3 coupled, said computer-readable medium carrying a sequence
4 of instructions which, when executed in conjunction with said
5 computer system, causes the following steps to be performed:
6 upon coupling said peripheral device to said
7 computer system by a user, querying said peripheral device
8 by an operating system executing on said computer system;
9 determining whether a memory module associated with
10 said peripheral device includes application software
11 compatible with at least one of said computer system and said
12 operating system, said application software for operating
13 said peripheral device in association with said computer
14 system; and
15 responsive to said determining step, uploading said
16 application software into said computer system.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein
2 said memory module is selected from the group consisting of:
3 a flash ROM module, an EPROM module, an NVRAM module and an
4 EEPROM module.

1 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein
2 said peripheral device is selected from the group consisting
3 of: a printer, a digital camera and a scanner.

1 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein
2 said operating system is selected from the group consisting
3 of a Unix-based operating system, Microsoft® Windows®
4 operating system, Windows® NT® operating system and
5 Macintosh® MacOS® operating system.

1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein
2 said application software comprises at least one of customer
3 usage application software, customer support diagnostic
4 application software and driver software.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein
2 said application software comprises at least one default
3 setting with respect to said peripheral device.